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Special Assistant to AS/IR

15 December 1953

Chief, Intelligence Information Staff, ORR

Hong Kong State Department Reporting

1. Present State Department reporting from the Consulate at Hong Kong is based on two principal sources, the China Mainland Press and interrogations of refugees. To these may be added several sources of less value including the Hong Kong press and the Chinese Nationalist Government at Taipei. The information presently being received is of the greatest value. Unquestionably Hong Kong is the most important existing source of current information concerning the China mainland. Nevertheless, it is the opinion of this office that the intelligence potential presented by Hong Kong is not being fully utilized.

2. Publications:

a. China Mainland Press:

While this has been a rich source of information it would be more useful if more articles were translated. Without reducing the number of full translations a maximum return for additional man hours could be achieved by translating extracts from articles which do not warrant full translation. Abstracts, as opposed to extracts, of articles are of limited usefulness since they tend to leave out the qualifying phrases and details needed by this office. It should be noted that at present a list of titles of untranslated articles is supplied. These titles indicate a large percentage of economic interest. The majority of present translations are political, full translations of these additional economic items would help supply a much needed emphasis on this field. (At present, many papers from the China mainland are received by FIB. However, due to FIB's manpower situation their exploitation and filing is such that this office is unable to receive their full benefit.)

If there are British restrictions on the size of our staff in Hong Kong it may be wise to collect the Mainland Press and other publications to be translated here so that a greater proportion of the reporting effort in the field may be directed toward interrogations. This would necessitate additional provisions in FIB for the translation activity.

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b. Other:

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There should be many brochures, textbooks, manuals, etc. now coming out of China. These do not appear to have been utilized fully and to date, few of these have been seen by this office.



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4. Conclusion and Recommendation:

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Original & 3 - Addressee



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